

Appl. No.: 09/693,060
Amdt. dated 03/20/2006
Reply to Office action of 12/21/2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph extending from page 14, line 16 to page 15, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

-- According to one aspect of the invention, the AAA server 30 can identify the source in communication with the gateway device in a manner that is transparent to computer users via a packet translation learned during a self configuration. That is, according to one aspect of the invention, a user will not be required to input identification, reconfigure the source computer or otherwise change the source computer's primary network settings. Furthermore, no additional configuration software will have to be added to the source computer. After a packet is received by the gateway device, attributes identified by the data packet can be compared with the data contained in the source profile database. Therefore, in addition to not requiring the reconfiguration of computers accessing the network, AAA servers of the present invention have the ability to authenticate sources without requiring interactive steps by the computer user, such as the entering of a user ID. For instance, the AAA server 30 may automatically identify the source based upon a MAC address, so that authorization of the source can be readily determined. Therefore, it will be appreciated that the AAA server 30 can determine the user, computer, or location from which the access is requested by comparing the attributes associated with the received data packet (such as in a header of the data packet) with data drawn from the source profile database. As will be described below, the access rights associated with the source may also be stored within the source profile database so that the system and method of the present invention can dynamically authorize access to particular services or destinations.--